

Plains Bison

Cody Siewert

The plains bison are very important to our ecosystem, because they act as an umbrella species for many other plants and animals. Plains Bison mostly reside in the northern great plains where millions of them had lived, but by the late 1800's, only a few thousand remained. Plains bison are great for the environment because they help grow diversity by their grazing and other activities. The population of plains bison started to decline because of the US government trying to subdue the native people by exterminating what little they had left to depend on. Thanks to conservation efforts in the early 1900s though, The bison began to see an increase in population because of their importance to the indigenous people. Although they are back from the brink of extinction, they still face many problems to this day, such as the lack of conservation efforts still remaining. But hopefully, with the help of WWF and many other national parks, The bison population will begin to see more support. And growth.

Work Cited:

<https://movementoflife.si.edu/species/plains-bison/>
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/plains-bison>

Red Fox

Ethan Webster

Red foxes have long snouts and red fur across the face, back, sides, and tail. Their throat, chin, and belly are grayish-white. Red foxes have black feet and black-tipped ears that are large and pointy. One of the most noticeable characteristics of the red fox is the fluffy white-tipped tail. They eat mainly rodents like Small Rats, and also Small Rabbits but, they also eat fruit, and some small birds like Robins, Blackbirds and sadly Baby chickens. Most live in North America, Asia, Europe, and 25% live in the North side of Africa.

Why they're endangered-

Natural disasters, guns, and other higher power animals.

What eats them-Eagles and Coyotes, sometimes if they're lucky in some situations the Red Fox can get away but with the cost of some no-major injuries.

How could we change this- "we can't change the fact that they're endangered" said a NGE mike jersey.

How many is left- A really small amount 18-39

Sources:

- Wlife online
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- TurtleBay.org
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife (GOV)
- I hart WildLife.org

Hailey Wotachek
Sea Turtles

All six species of sea turtles are listed as endangered. Sea turtles have played a role in helping the environment and maintaining the health of the world's oceans for over 100 million years. Sea turtles maintain productive coral reef systems and transport essential nutrients from oceans to beaches and coastal dunes. According to, conserveturtles.org, "If sea turtles went extinct, dune vegetation would lose a major source of nutrients and would not be as healthy and would not be strong enough to maintain the dunes, resulting in increased erosion." The biggest threats to sea turtles are illegal harvesting, habitat encroachment, and pollution. One way to protect Sea turtles is to keep nesting beaches dark and safe for them and to not disturb their nests or hatchlings. Another way is to carry reusable shopping bags and water bottles. Most of the plastic we use goes into the ocean and hurts the sea turtles.

Works Cited

<https://conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-why-care/#:~:text=As%20the%20number%20of%20turtles,dunes%2C%20resulting%20in%20increased%20erosion.>

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/what-can-you-do-save-sea-turtles#:~:text=Keep%20nesting%20beaches%20dark%20and,turtles%2C%20nests%2C%20or%20hatchlings.>

Jack Kraynik
Pink Headed Duck

The pink headed duck lives in India and parts of Asia. It may or may not still exist but may exist in the inaccessible swamp regions of northern Myanmar. One has not been seen since the 1950s. The Encyclopedia of Life says it is "critically endangered". It lost its habitat because its

land was cleared for agriculture and hunting. They are considered to be nocturnal which would make it even more hard to find them. There are no real photos/images of them, there are only waxed/stuffed/painted images of them.

Sources:

Encyclopedia of Life
Animal Diversity Web
Birds of the World

Mia Ihlenfeldt
Sea Otters

Sea otters are an essential part of the marine environment because they are keystone species, which means that they have a more significant impact on their ecosystem. Sea otters are apex predators, which is important because they maintain a balance between other species as well as other plants in the environment. For example, they eat sea urchins, which would destroy the kelp forests in their marine environment if it were not for sea otters. Despite their importance, sea otters face endangerment, mostly due to the actions of humans. Sea otters have been hunted by humans for their fur, exposed to oil spills, and threatened by factors like disease. Aquarium of the Pacific says, "Now a protected species, California's sea otters have grown from a group of 50 in 1938 to about 2,800 today." This small population shows that sea otters are considered endangered. However, humans are also making an impact on the protection of sea otters. According to Defenders of Wildlife, "Hunted to near extinction in the 18th and 19th centuries, sea otters finally gained protections with the signing of the International Fur Seal Treaty of 1911. In the 1970s, they received additional safeguarding under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act." Now, humans can also make a positive impact by keeping the coasts clean to protect the sea otter's environment as well as reducing the possibilities of oil spills.

Works Cited

Aquarium of Pacific
Defenders of Wildlife

Molly Gillaume
Lli Pikas

Lli Pikas, also known as *Ochotona iliensis*, is a species of mammals that live in northwest China. Due to originating in China, specifically in the area of the Tian Shan

mountains, they inhabit talus slopes at very high elevations. These small mammals were discovered in 1983 but were never documented until 2002 and then once more in 2014. Lili Pikas are considered endangered because there are less than 1,000 in the world. These cute little creatures are herbivores/graminivorous, they are also known to construct haypiles as well. They mostly feed on grass and herbs. They produce 1-2 litters a year, how many they have is unknown. Lili Pikas aren't exactly known for anything, most people don't even know they exist. There is very little information about them, and we might not have any more information due to there being less than 1,000 of them in the world. What can be done to help them is unknown, maybe if people start spreading the word about the Pika more people will know and maybe they can be saved.

Sources:

<https://animalia.bio/lili-pika/1000>

Noah Wick

Amur Leopard

The Amur Leopard lives in southeastern Russia and Northern China. Worldwildlife.org states that, "They are top predators, meaning they play an important role in maintaining a healthy balance of species in their habitat." They eat small and large animals too: deer, wild boar, weasels, badgers, birds, hares, and mice. It is endangered because of unsustainable logging, forest fires, road building, farming, and industrial development. The gestation period for a leopard is 92-95 days and they normally weigh 70-105 pounds. According to the World Wildlife "the number of Amur leopards in Russia has increased from 27-32 to 70-75 in the last 15 years, while China has recorded an increase of 13-15 individuals in bordering provinces." Zoos and scientists are working to improve conditions for this animal by "Monitoring populations". People need to stop cutting down the trees to help save the species. They also need to stop hunting the animals they eat. We need all of these animals.

Site

<https://supawell.com/uncategorized/the-amur-leopard-the-rarest-big-cat-in-the-world/>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/amur-leopard>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/amur-leopards>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/how-fast-are-amur-leopards-and-9-other-amur-leopard-facts>

Oli Browne

Black-footed ferret

The Black-footed ferret is one of the most endangered mammals in North America, it was thought to be extinct, but was found in the wild in Wyoming in 1981. Although great strides have been made to recover the black-footed ferret, habitat loss and disease remain their key threats. Biologists estimate that there should be 3,000 adult ferrets in the wild to successfully recover this endangered species. The black-footed ferrets in the wild signafin the health of the grassland ecosystem in which they depend on for survival. The ferrets are entirely dependent on the presence of prairie dogs and their colonies for food, shelter and raising young. Without the help of reintroduction sites and protection from plague, full black-footed ferret recovery remains difficult.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/black-footed-ferret>

Marcus Stern

Tidewater Goby

My animal is a fish related to the pog fish. It is the tidewater goby This creature lives in India. The fish's main food source was other pog fish, but now there are very few pog fish to eat. These fish are cannibalistic but more so they are typically a herbivore. They help the ecosystem by eating algae. This keeps oxygen from getting too high and suffocating other fish. It is endangered because of pollution and there are only about a million left. Which is better than 2017 where there were only about 600,000.

Sources:

wikipedia
a mix of youtube
national geographic

Vivian Bootz
Sierra Nevada Red Fox

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Sierra Nevada red fox is smaller than most other fox species and has particularly thick fur, which is a useful adaptation in its snowy habitat in the mountains. This fox makes its home between the Oregon-Washington border and the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, and there are only 18 to 39 left in the wild. This fox faces natural disasters like wildfire and drought. They also compete with coyotes in their area and decreasing prey populations. These foxes also face the extinction of their race because there is “widespread hybridization with non-native foxes.” The Sierra Nevada Red Fox Conservation Advisory Team is working to stop the extinction of these animals. They list examples of ways to help the animals, like “Public education to discourage littering and feeding wildlife, along with carnivore-proof trash disposal, may reduce the likelihood that SNRF become food-conditioned or habituated to humans.” Since the 1920s, this population has declined, but there’s hope left for them.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<https://www.fws.gov/species/sierra-nevada-red-fox-vulpes-vulpes-necator>

The Sierra Nevada Red Fox Conservation Advisory Team

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/management_plans/docs/A%20Conservation%20Strategy%20for%20the%20Sierra%20Nevada%20Red%20Fox_2022.pdf

Lily O'Brien
Black-Footed Ferret

The Black-Footed Ferret is one of the most endangered mammals in North America. They become endangered because of loss of habitat, loss of prairie dogs, and the Sylvatic Plague. Black-Footed Ferrets are predators of prairie dogs so if they go extinct, the population will get higher very fast causing other animals to starve. Black-Footed ferrets live in North America, around temperate grasslands. They mostly live in the United States, but used to live across Mexico and Canada as well. There are currently 340 in the wild, and 301 in captivity according to National Geographic. To help Black-Footed Ferrets, people are trying to help by keeping already existing habitats and relocating prairie dogs.

Sources:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals>

Tessa Alvarado

Kiwi

The kiwi is a bird native to New Zealand, they are about the size of a chicken and are normally between 1.5 - 2 feet tall. They are a flightless bird: they have tiny wings that they cannot use to fly, and unlike most birds they have a long skinny beak which is used to sniff at the ground and find food, seeing as kiwis nostrils are at the bottom of their bill unlike other birds where there's higher up on the beak. What do kiwi birds eat? They are omnivorous and although worms form a major part of their diet, they will also readily eat woodlice, millipedes, centipedes, slugs, snails, spiders, insects, seeds, berries and plant material. Kiwi feed at night and probe into the ground with their bill up to a depth of 12cm. Another thing that makes the kiwi birds different from other birds is their feathers, instead of the normal bird feathers they have loose fur like feathers that molt throughout the year. Kiwi are mostly nocturnal seeing as most of their food is found at night. Stoats, ferrets and weasels are the biggest threat to the survival of Kiwi, closely followed by cats and dogs, only 5% of all Kiwis hatched in the wild survive to adulthood. The feather patterns allow kiwi to protect themselves by disappearing into the dark and fading into the forest vegetation. When distressed a kiwi freezes, disguising itself from aerial predators. There are ways people can help keep kiwi birds safe, from donating money to organizations that are helping the kiwi to people in New Zealand keeping their pets from attacking the kiwi. There are around 68,000 kiwi left in the wild and their population goes down 2% every year or 20 kiwis a week. There are many organizations that are locally funded by the government to help the kiwi. Kiwi are used as a flagship species for conservation and they are often used as a measure for the state of New Zealand's natural environment.

<https://www.nationalkiwihatchery.org.nz/about-us/kiwi-facts/#:~:text=Feeding,to%20a%20depth%20of%2012cm.>

<https://savethekiwi.nz/how-to-help/#:~:text=Take%20action,help%20protect%20these%20special%20birds>

<https://inspiringjourneys.com/stories/kiwi-bird-facts/#:~:text=ARE%20KIWI%20BIRDS%20ENDANGERED%3F,that%20seeks%20safety%20in%20seclusion.>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/kiwi/facts/#:~:text=Kiwi%20have%20become%20flagship%20species,value%20of%20community%20conservation%20projects.>

Carter Last

Red Panda

Yo like red panda's live in the mountainous forests of the Asian countries of Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal. They stay high up in the mountains at altitudes of around 2,500-4,000 meters, where rain is frequent and temperatures are lower than those of temperatures on the ground because its colder the higher up you get for some reason. They live at these higher altitudes because the heat in the lower areas can be dangerous for them I guess. Some of the like main threats to them are habitat loss, human growth, and settlement in the areas they call home. According to treehugger.com, "In addition, the red panda has faced dangers from hunting, poaching, and general human interference." One thing that you could like do to stop the population of red pandas from dropping at a fast rate is that you could possibly get involved by spreading awareness donating and other things about those things, taking part in ecotourism, and working against the red panda trade. A thing that helps them is "The Red Panda Network is a nonprofit organization that protects red pandas and their habitat. They work with local community groups to establish wildlife corridors, train "forest guardians" to raise awareness about red pandas, and work with villagers to establish protected areas."

<https://www.treehugger.com/red-pandas-endangered-5024939#:~:text=You%20can%20get%20involved%20by,red%20pandas%20and%20their%20habitats.>

London Zais

Butterfly

The butterfly species has 5 extinct butterflies since 1950. 29 butterfly species are endangered, 6 are threatened. Colombia has the most butterflies in the world. Butterflies are endangered because of habitat loss, climate change, diseases, pesticides, and invasive plants. We could change this by making sure that we keep certain spaces safe places for the butterflies, plant things, and try and stop climate change. There are only 17,000 species. Many zoos are making places for butterflies to stay and be safe.

Sources:

National Geographic